

Appln. No. 09/667,390
Amendment dated June 13, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 23, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 69-71, 76, 77 and 80, and amend claims 67, 79 and 81-83 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (Previously Presented). A camera comprising:

photographing means having a series photographing capability for acquiring image data of a subject;

positioning means for executing positioning to obtain
5 positional information;

series photographing instruction means for giving a series photographing instruction to said photographing means to carry out series photographing;

series photographing control means for performing such
10 control as to cause said photographing means to execute series photographing to acquire a plurality of photographed images in

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response to said series photographing instruction given by said series photographing instruction means;

15 first positioning timing control means for controlling said timing in such a way that said positioning means executes positioning to acquire first positional information before or immediately after said series photographing instruction is given by said series photographing instruction means;

20 second positioning timing control means for controlling said timing in such a way that said positioning means executes positioning to acquire second positional information immediately before or immediately after series photographing by said series photographing control means is finished;

25 positional information computing means for computing new positional information using said first and second positional information; and

30 memory control means for storing said positional information computed by said positional information computing means in said memory means in association with said plurality of photographed images acquired by said series photographing control means.

Claims 17-38 (Cancelled).

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Claim 39 (Previously Presented). A camera comprising:

a photographing device having a series photographing capability which acquires image data of a subject;

5 a positioning device which executes positioning to obtain positional information;

a series photographing instruction device which provides a series photographing instruction to said photographing device to carry out series photographing;

10 a series photographing controller which performs such control as to cause said photographing device to execute series photographing to acquire a plurality of photographed images in response to said series photographing instruction given by said series photographing instruction device;

15 a first positioning timing controller which controls said timing in such a way that said positioning device executes positioning to acquire first positional information before or immediately after said series photographing instruction is given by said series photographing instruction device;

20 a second positioning timing control device which controls said timing in such a way that said positioning device executes positioning to acquire second positional information immediately before or immediately after series photographing by said series photographing control device is finished;

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25 a positional information computing device which computes new
positional information using said first and second positional
information;

a memory which stores said plurality of photographed images
acquired under control of said series photographing controller;
and

30 a memory controller which stores said positional information
obtained by said positioning device in said memory in association
with said plurality of photographed images acquired by said
photographing device,

35 wherein said memory controller stores said positional
information computed by said positional information computing
device in said memory in association with said plurality of
photographed images acquired by said series photographing
controller.

Claims 40-44 (Cancelled).

Claim 45 (Previously Presented). A camera comprising:
photographing means;
positioning means;

positioning timing control means for causing said
5 positioning means to execute positioning at a predetermined

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timing asynchronous to a photographing timing of said
photographing means to thereby obtain positional information;
memory means for storing a plurality of images photographed
by said photographing means; and

10 memory control means for storing said positional information
obtained by said positioning timing control means in said memory
means in association with said plurality of photographed images,
wherein said predetermined timing for obtaining said
positional information is when a date is changed.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented). A camera comprising:

photographing means;

positioning means;

positioning timing control means for causing said

5 positioning means to execute positioning at a predetermined
timing asynchronous to a photographing timing of said
photographing means to thereby obtain positional information;

memory means for storing a plurality of images photographed
by said photographing means; and

10 memory control means for storing said positional information
obtained by said positioning timing control means in said memory
means in association with said plurality of photographed images,

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wherein said predetermined timing for obtaining said positional information is when a folder for storing an image photographed by said photographing means is changed or newly provided.

Claims 47-66 (Cancelled).

Claim 67 (Currently Amended). A camera comprising:
positioning timing determination means for determining a positioning timing under a predetermined condition;
positioning means for executing positioning at the
5 positioning timing determined by the positioning timing determination means to thereby acquire positional information;
instruction means for receiving a photographing instruction at an arbitrary timing;
image storing means for storing a photographed image in
10 accordance with the photographing instruction received by the instruction means;
positional information storing means for storing the positional information acquired by the positioning means in association with the photographed image stored by the image
15 storing means;

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overlapping determination means for determining ~~overlapping~~
~~of whether~~ the positioning timing determined by the positioning
timing determination means and the timing of receiving the
photographing instruction by the instruction means overlap, in
20 accordance with the photographing instruction received by the
instruction means [[;]]_ [[and]]

first control means for, [[when]] if the overlapping
determination means determines that the timings overlap when the
image storing means stores the photographed image in accordance
25 with the photographing instruction received by the instruction
means, allowing the image storing means to store the photographed
image after[[,]] inhibiting the positioning means from executing
positioning at the overlapped positioning timing; and

second control means for, if the overlapping determination
30 means determines that the timings do not overlap when the image
storing means stores the photographed image in accordance with
the photographing instruction received by the instruction means,
allowing the image storing means to immediately store the
photographed image without inhibiting the positioning means from
35 executing positioning at the overlapped positioning timing.

Claim 68 (Previously Presented). The camera according to
claim 67, wherein:

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the positioning timing determination means determines a
40 plurality of positioning timings;

the positioning means executes positioning at the plurality
of positioning timings determined by the positioning timing
determination means to thereby acquire a plurality of positional
information items; and

45 the positional information storing means stores a positional
information item selected from positional information items
acquired by the positioning means without being inhibited by the
control means, in association with the photographed image stored
by the image storing means.

Claims 69-71 (Cancelled).

Claim 72 (Previously Presented). The camera according to
claim 68, wherein the positional information storing means stores
the positional information acquired at a positioning timing
closest to a timing at which the image is photographed, of the
5 plurality of positional information items acquired by the
positioning means, in association with the photographed image.

Claim 73 (Previously Presented). The camera according to
claim 68, wherein the positioning timing determination means

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determines the plurality of positioning timings repeated at each predetermined time interval.

Claim 74 (Previously Presented). The camera according to claim 68, wherein the positioning time determination means determines, as the positioning timing, a timing coming after a predetermined time passes in a state that the photographing
5 instruction received by the instruction means is not received.

Claim 75 (Previously Presented). The camera according to claim 67, further comprising:

selection means for selecting one of a positioning operation by the positioning means and a photographing operation by the
5 image storing means which has a high priority,

wherein the control means inhibits the positioning means from executing the positioning operation at the overlapped positioning timings, when the positioning timing determined by the positioning timing determination means and the timing of
10 receiving the photographing instruction by the instruction means overlap, and the photographing operation is selected by the selection means.

Claim 76 (Cancelled).

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Claim 77 (Cancelled).

Claim 78 (Previously Presented). . The camera according to claim 67, wherein the positioning timing determination means determines, as the positioning timing, a timing which is determined irrespective of the timing of receiving the
5 photographing instruction by the instruction means and which is out of a period from the timing of the photographing instruction to a time when the photographed image is stored.

Claim 79 (Currently Amended). The camera according to claim [[76]] 67, wherein the positioning timing determination means determines, as the positioning timing, a timing at which a photographing mode is turned on or a timing at which the
5 photographing mode is turned off.

Claim 80 (Cancelled).

Claim 81 (Currently Amended). [[The]] A camera ~~according to claim 80, further~~ comprising:

positioning timing determination means for determining a predetermined positioning timing;

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- 5 positioning means for executing positioning at the
positioning timing determined by the positioning timing
determination means to thereby acquire positional information;
instruction means for receiving a photographing instruction
at an arbitrary timing;
- 10 image storing means for storing a photographed image in
accordance with the photographing instruction received by the
instruction means;
positional information storing means for storing the
positional information acquired by the positioning means in
15 association with the photographed image stored by the image
storing means;
selection means for selecting one of a positioning operation
by the positioning means and a photographing operation by the
image storing means which has a high priority[[,]] ; and
- 20 control means for inhibiting the image storing means from
storing the photographed image during a period until the
positioning of the positioning means is ended, when the
positioning timing determined by the positioning timing
determination means and the timing of receiving the photographing
25 instruction by the instruction means overlap and when the
positioning operation of the positioning means is selected with
higher priority by the selection means

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30 ~~wherein the control means inhibits the positioning means
from executing the positioning operation at the overlapped
positioning timings, when the positioning timing determined by
the positioning timing determination means and the timing of
receiving the photographing instruction by the instruction means
overlap, and the photographing operation is selected by the
selection means.~~

Claim 82 (Currently Amended). A camera method comprising
the steps of:

determining a positioning timing under a predetermined
condition;

5 executing positioning at the determined positioning timing
to thereby acquire positional information;

receiving a photographing instruction at an arbitrary
timing;

10 storing a photographed image in accordance with the received
photographing instruction;

storing the acquired positional information in association
with the stored photographed image;

determining ~~an overlap of~~ whether the positioning timing and
the timing of receiving the photographing instruction overlap, in

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15 accordance with the received photographing instruction [[:]]
[[and]]

[[when]] if a determination is made that the timings overlap
when the photographed image is stored in accordance with the
received photographing instruction, allowing the photographed
20 image to be stored after[[,]] inhibiting execution of positioning
at the overlapped positioning timing; and

if a determination is made that the timings do not overlap
when the photographed image is stored in accordance with the
received photographing instruction, allowing the photographed
25 image to be immediately stored without inhibiting execution of
positioning at the overlapped positioning timing.

Claim 83 (Currently Amended). A camera method comprising
the steps of:

determining a predetermined positioning timing;
executing positioning at the predetermined positioning
timing to thereby acquire positional information;
receiving a photographing instruction at an arbitrary
timing;

5 storing a photographed image in accordance with the received
photographing instruction;

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storing the acquired positional information in association
with the stored photographed image;

~~notifying that positioning is executed in a period during~~
10 ~~which the positioning is executed~~ selecting one of a positioning
operation and a photographing operation to have a higher
priority; and

inhibiting execution of photographing during a period until
the positioning has ended, when the determined positioning timing
15 and the timing of receiving the photographing instruction overlap
and when the positioning operation is selected with higher
priority.